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Butler County Where Peace and Plenty Follow the Plowman's Trail





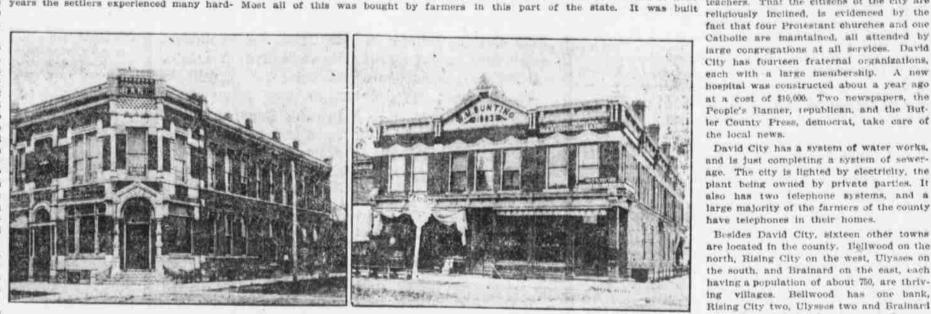
NORTH SIDE OF SQUARE, DAVID CITY.

William Butler and S. D. Shinn, who both independent, and while they yet reside on of Nebraska. The Union Pacific, Chicago & located in the vicinity where Savannah was their farms they are taking life easy. afterwards laid out.

Most of these and their successors in was not a question; now it is different. depots. It has three hotels. The Perkins, the following years located on the bottom Farmers are constantly searching for the built by a stock company, is the largest, lands near the Platte river, close to wood finest and most perfectly bred cattle and being a three story brick structure. The and water, the prime necessities of life horses; in fact, stock of all kinds that can original plat of the city, the property of A few made settlements each year there- be procured. As an illustration of what Phebe W. Miles, laid put by W. T. Rich-

Northwestern, and Burlington and Missouri A few years ago the grade or breed of cattle river railroads all cross its limits and have

after, but during the civil war their num-ber was quite small, but on the cessation of weeks ago State Senator C. H. Aldrich heid To this have been added about sixteen county just when the Hudson by what was known as the "Fort Kearney hostilities the tide of emigration again a sale of Hereford cattle. Forty-four head additions. The city was legally incorpor-Bay Fur company failed in the road," or, "Pike's Peak trail." The old commenced to turn thither and each year was sold at an average price of more than ated March 5, 1874. The court house, loline of settlement and civiliza- California trail, also, closely following the saw the population of Butler county con- \$100 per head. Sixteen of those were less cated on a block of ground in the center tion. One carried in the trap- Platte, passed through the old sites of siderably increased. During the early than 6 months old. One cow sold for \$350, of the city, is a structure second to none per and the trader, the other, Waverly, on Skull creek; Ellsworth, on years the settlers experienced many hard- Most all of this was bought by farmers in this part of the state. It was built



CITY NATIONAL BANK.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA NATIONAL BANK. tlement was soon abandned. In 1858, after ships, particularly when the grasshoppers residing in Butler county,

B. Garfield and James Blair came to the Since then a new Nebraska had developed within her borders, live stock as follows: All kinds of business is represented and county and made settlements with their and Butler county has done its share in Cattle, 22,364 head; sheep, 1,536 head; hogs, the merchants all seem to be prosperous. families in what is now the township of this development and has also shared in 31,574 head; horses, 10,277 head; mules, 963 Two department stores are doing business first permanent settlers within the limits farming and its alled industries is profit- county in the year 1968, are as follows; of clerks. Three national banks, with Surprise has a water power flouring mill This is a homestead county and for a

sell, William Bissell, William Earl, Moses successfully contradicted. The farmers of 754 bushels; bush During the excitement attendant on the Shinn, David R. Gardner, David Reed and Butler county have been wonderfully suc- oats, 1,174,000 bushels; barley, 2,356 bushels; are two flouring mills with a combined bank. Abie, a thriving little village in the and other grain, with sleek, well fed catdiscovery of the precious metals at Pike's several others made settlements within the cessful in the last few years. Many of rye, 6,645 bushels; capacity of 25 barrels per day and a brick east part of the county, also has a steam the and lusty swine, with prosperous farm-

Butler county has seventeen banks, three national and fourteen state, the combined capital of which is \$364,000; surplus, \$145,000; deposits, \$2,467,090. That the mortgage ins is on the decrease is eviden by the following, copied from the reports for the years 1906 and 1907: 1906 farm mortgages filed 282, released 243; average rate of interest 5% per cent; 1907 farm mortgages filed 198, released 279, average rate of Interest, 5 per cent; 195 city mortgages filed eighty-one, released eighty-nine, average rate of Minterest 8 per cent; 1907, city mortgages filed seventy-six, released 108, average rate of interest 7 per cent. Farm lands have increased in value at a rapid rate, the average price being from \$100 to \$150 per scre. A further evidence of the rapid development and increase in wealth of the county is in cities and villages. Of those there are seventeen, all railroad stations. David City, the county seat, is located within half a mile of the center of the county, and has a population of more than 2,500. With its natural and railway advantages and the enterprise of its citizens, it promises to largely increase in the future and assume importance among the larger cities

W. J. CRUSEN, North Platte, Neb

about twenty years ago, at a cost of



BUTLER COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

The David City public schools, three Brainard each support newspapers, .ach buildings, employing fourteen teachers, are of them having a large subscription list. crowded to their utmost espacity. There The ninety-two school districts of Butler is also a parochial school employing four county employ 142 teachers, twenty-siz teachers. That the citizens of the city are male and 126 female. Wages are comreligiously inclined, is evidenced by the paratively good, the highest paid in the fact that four Protestant churches and one country district being \$65 a month; lowest, Catholic are maintained, all attended by \$5. There were 150 eighth grade graduates large congregations at all services. David last year. The county has a flourishing teacher's association. The educational fea-City has fourteen fraternal organizations, ture of the year is the educational coneach with a large membership. A new vention held each year toward the last of bospital was constructed about a year ago March. at a cost of \$15,000. Two newspapers, the People's Banner, republican, and the But-

In 1867, the county owned one log school house. In 1876 it possessed fifty-four, of ler County Press, democrat, take care of which forty-eight were neat and commodious frame structures, well finished. The

David City has a system of water works, first teacher's certificate was issued to and is just completing a system of sewer- Allen Jilson, October 29, 1869. The first age. The city is lighted by electricity, the school district was formed December 5, plant being owned by private parties. It 1808. In 1858 Mahala City was made county also has two telephone systems, and a seat by special act of legislature. August 3, large majority of the farmers of the county 1860, a patent was issued following the first entry of land, which was made by J. W.

Besides David City, sixteen other towns Seeley. In 1869, the United States governare located in the county. Hellwood on the ment granted 97,000 acres of land to the north, Rising City on the west, Ulyases on Union Pacific Railmoad company. April the south, and Brainard on the east, each 10, 1871, and April 14, 1872, are remembered having a population of about 750, are thriv. as the days of the great snowstorms and 1872 is marked as the year of the great Rising City two, Ulysses two and Brainard prairie fire.

two. Brainard also has a steam flouring David City town site was surveyed in mill of 100-barrel capacity, and an electric 1873, and the first house built was the light plant. Ulysses has a water power court house, in the same year. Rev. Wilflouring mill. Other villages in the county, liam Worley of the Methodist church, orall of which are good markets for frain ganized the first circuit in the county and live stock, are: Loma, Yanka, Foley, and preached his first sermon in a grove Garrison, Linwood, Octavia, Millerton, Sur-

of Butler county. In 1869, Thompson Bis- able is no longer a question that can be Corn. 3,731,787 bushels; winter wheat, 1,341,- abundant capital, are doing a profitable and a bank. Garrison, Linwood, Octavia, lovely country, with orchards and groves rels. Rising City, Ulysses, Bellwood and vies with all creation.

DAVID CITY HIGH SCHOOL

HE early pioneer struck Butler their way to the new diggings, traveling maker and his wife. One his Bone creek, and Gardner's Ranch, on the the nome traps and rifle, the other his seed wheat site of Savannah, the first county seat. and plow. One shot an Indian for killing a This ranch was established by David R. beaver out of season and the other paid Gardner in 1859. The year previous Shinn's bounty on the wolf and the coyote. One Ferry was established, which is about ten hunted and traded for what he could carry miles due north of David City. The "old out of the county, the other planted and Government trail," or "Military road," enbuilded for what he could leave in it for tered the county near the line dividing his children. One counted his muskrat Skull creek and Oak Creek townships, and nests and the other his bills of corn. One wound in many a devious way along the his bale of furs, the other his bushels of divide to a point in what is now the grain. In short, the fur trader paddled town of Oak Creek, the site of "David his boat on every stream and drove his Reed's ranch," at which point it became dog team ever every trail along the Platte one with the Mormon trail. Reed estabriver, to bring out furs and pettries, while lished his place in 1862, and operated it for the American emigrant hauled in with his about five years. Along the line of this prairie schooner the twentieth century last trail were scattered several ranches: civilization. Morning in David City dated McCabe's, on Deer creek, established in from that time. 1859; Thomas Bissell's, on Elm creek, com-

It is generally the opinion that the ex- menced in 1860, and Simpson's, afterward ploring expedition under the command of Grant's, established in 1869. John C. Fremont, "the Pathfinder," was The first attempt at a settlement in the

the first visit of the white men to the ter- county was made in 1857 by the Waverly ritory now comprised within the limits of Town company of Plattsmouth on the Butler county. The Mormons in their banks of Skull creek in what is now the transcontinental march from Nauvoo to township of Platte. Messrs. Hultsizer, Utah passed through the county, leaving Barker, Garrison and nine others were the a plainly marked road, well known to the ploneers in this movement, but owing to old settlers as the "old Mormon trail." the Pike's Peak excitement of 1859, the set-

This entered the county in the southeastern part, what is now Richardson township, on the east, thence following up one of the continuous divides to the table land, hill, from which it descended to the Platte bottoms.

the exodus of the Waverly people. Solomon came and devoured everything in sight. The last report shows Butler county has \$58,000. and from there, round its northern edge, to the point where Deer creek leaves the first normanent stores are doing business. 10,277 head; mules, 933 Two department stores are doing business. prise, Dwight, Bruno, Able and Nimburg. Freese, a weekly journal, issued its first number 25, 1873.

Peak in 1859, thousands of adventurers boundaries of the cousty. In the year 1860 them who eight, ten or twelve years ago tame hay, 54,765 tons; wild hay, 45,658 tons; yard, employing eighteen men and turning flouring mill with a capacity of 100 bar- ers and their happy wives, it certainly

out 3,000,000 brick annually.



THRESHING ON KOVAR FARM, EAST OF DAVID CITY.



SCENE ON FARM OF ALFRED KNAPPS, SOUTHWEST FROM DAVID CITY.

Gossip and Stories About Noted People

Judicial Experience of Taft Family. or defend his decisions. I think I may say vance of the time when they would be re-BELIEVE it is true," writes that my experience in this respect has been quired. President Taft in McClure's, truly exceptional."

"I don't know, Gus," said Marse Henry.



"that I am the only success-Marse Henry's Memory. ful candidats for the presidency

"I don't know, Gus."

"When did we go home?"

Gus Thomas was spending an evening who ever had extended judicial experience. Mr. Van Buren with Marse Henry Watterson in Louisville, relates the New York Press, and been a surrogate or probate judge early in his career, and Andrew Jackson, around 2 a. m. they began to feel tired. I believe, did serve as a judge of the su- By 3 they were exhausted. By 4 they were preme court of North Carolina, but it was all in and had to quit, separating and going a very unimportant part of his life, and their different ways. Thomas tumbled out of bed the next afternoon at dinner time his service did not bring into the issues of his campaigns any discussion of his work go to breakfast together. / his service did not bring into the issues of "Colonel Watterson," said Thomas,

Judge Parker, as far as I know, is the . where did we go after 2 o'clock last only other candidate who had been for night?" any number of years on the bench, and while there was some reference in the "What did we do?" campaign to his judicial opinions, they did not involve any issues made in the platform and were not given special promi-"I don't know, Gus." nence on the stump or in political editorials.

'who took me home?" "In 1896 the judgment of the supreme "Marse Henry's face cleared brightly court in the income tax case was made a from the gloom of previous ignorance. subject of heated discussion, and suggestions that the court might be increased you home, suh."

If one party was successful, so as to bring about a reversal of the decision, were not wanting. Still, I think it may be truly said that in no campaign since the beginning of the government has there been directly involved as an issue a question considered demolished Clement's Inn, and there deand decided by one of the presidential canlidutes an a judge.

"It is not the first time in my family Liverpool Mercury. If it were necessary to dwell on my dothat a judicial decision has played an important part in the political fortunes of the mestic life I could perhaps tell curious Ill., met Mrs. Julia Johnson, 43 years old, judge deciding it. While my father was a stories of my days in chambers, for with of Nashville, Tenn. Friendship ripened judge of the superior court of Cincinnati my income of 100 pounds a year I had to into love and the couple planned to get the question arose whether the school be my own cook and housemaid, making matried in Kansas City. board of the city had the power by resolution to change the rule under which schools own politician and prophet, regulating for Quist got a marriage license. He gave his were opened in the morning by the reading the people of Liverpool affairs of state, flances \$100 to buy wedding cloching. She of the King James version of the Bible, and discussing for the world in general the did so, but advised him to return to Rock Two of the judges of the supreme court laws of the universe.

held that this was beyond the power of It may be enough to say that I was the school board, while my father, the rather poor and very lonely, having few Mr. Quist passed through Kansas City, third judge, dissented. The case proceeded friends in Lendon, hardly any houses to not his finnces's trousseau and bought her to the supreme court, and that court, in a call at, and little to live for except my unanimous judgment, approved the views family, who were far away, and my work, diamond ring. of my father as a dissenting judge in the which was always with me.

court below. Notwithstanding this result, in three gubernatorial campaigns my father tiful, my editor discovered that at the rowed \$30 more from her finnces to shop. was defeated in republican conventions moment of the unexpected death of a She did not return. At 7 o'clock Quist on the ground of his decision in the Lible celebirity he was sometimes hard pressed found a note from her at the hotel, saying case, but it never fell to his lot to be nomi- for an adequate obituary notice, and there- that "time has shown me that we could nated as a pasty candidate and to find it fore resolved to have a good body of such not live happily together, so I must leave necessary to go upon the stump to explain articles prepared and pigeonholed in ad- you."

In this work of preparation my services were engaged, and I wrote numberless obltuary notices of people still living, including nearly all the literary friends with whom I used to dine and smoke. I called these my post-mortem examinations, and, making no secret of them, I sometimes engaged the co-operation of my subjects themselves in preparing the substance of what was to be said about them after their deaths.

Tolstoy at Home.

A German tourist who recently visited Tolstoy writes: "The venerable man makes heroic efforts to disregard the pain which is the natural accompaniment of the malady from which he is suffering, and when he can do so he takes long walks, knowing full well that the next day he must pay "Colonel Watterson," asked Thomas, the penalty in his armchair. His industry is unchecked. He is writing a history of the revolutionary movement of 1966-'08 and labors diligently on his book entitled 'Children's Wisdom', which consists of questions asked by children of their elders and the answers. He is writing also a treatiso

Plucking a Lover.

Tex., last January, Alexander Quist, 60 years old, a retired farmer of Rock Island, my own bed and breakfast, as well as my The couple arrived February 20 and Mr.

Island until the clothes were made, She went back to Amarillo. On May 18

a pair of \$350 diamond earrings and a \$200 The couple returned to Kansas City to

Later, when my friends were more plen- Mrs. Johnson was not prepared and bor-

Engineer Crusen Turns Evangelist in His Old Days

LLIAM J. CRUSEN, a retired Twelfth Ohio volunteers. At the end of that Union Pacific engineer, is spend- time it was seen that the war would probing the closing years of his life ably drag on and Crusen enlisted for three seeing what good he can do for years more in the same regiment. His regi-his fellow-men. At North ment received a sound drubbing seven days Platte, where he lives, and all after Crusen joined the ranks. He served along the Union Pacific he is known as the through the war for three years and then

engineer preacher. ran a locomotive for the government at Pensioned by the Union Pacific railroad. Nashville, Tenn., until the war ended. He he is now a local preacher with the Meth-odist Episcopal church and gives his time Terra Haute & Richmond road. and talent for the good of mankind by helping pastors in revival work. Since he gave up his engine and entered the servce of the church as a volunteer he has was president of the Vandalia at that time been connected with meetings where over 1,300 souls have been converted. He has of the Union Pacific, was a civil engineer just finished a revival meeting at Curtis, in charge of construction of an extension Neb., where 130 were converted, and before to St. Louis and Crusen was in charge of

converted. Pacific trainmen and the officials of the was driven. road and people all along the line know and respect Crusen, the engineer preacher.

fellow-men. On March 19, 1549, on a farm in the Lickto give up school and help out on the farm. firing and out his own wood from the slabs from the mill as a side diversion. He kept from the cab of his engine. this job for one year at wages for which few young men would labor today. Cursen gave up his job at the mill for a position as fireman on the Central Onio railroad, you getting on with your astronomy?" now the Baltimore & Ohio. He ran from Belair to Columbus and continued in the dainfully. "I not discouraged." service of the railroad for three years.

The mutterings of discension had changed "Why, one day when our parlor was full to the stern realities of war and he en- of company, I remarked that 'Mare' face listed for three months when Lincoln issued is full of lines, and ma thought I meant her his first call for 75,000 men, paying his own face and took me out to the woodshed and fare 150 miles to enlist in Company E, I haven't had such a licking in two years,"

W. R. McKeen, father of W. R. McKeen, jr., of the McKeen Motor Car company, and Horace G. Burt, afterwards president that at Ravena, where seventy-five were the engine which carried these to the cele-

bration of the completion of the Vandalia Crusen holds the respect of all the Union extension to St. Louis, when the last spike

After working for fifteen years for the Vandalia Crusen built a steambest to try He was a good soldier for Uncle Sam dur- to compete with the railroads, but soon ing the civil war, he was a good engineer lost in the venture all the money he had for the Union Pacific and for the other saved by years of hard labor. He then roads he worked for prior to that time, and worked for the Big Four and the Wabash now he is doing the best he can for his until 1881, when he received a telegram to come to Omalia and run an engine on the

Union Pacific. He soon had a regular ening valley in Ohio, iwenty-six miles up gine and a regular run. He named his the stream from Zanesville and four miles engine "Soda Water Sal" and that old enfrom Newark, Crusen was born. At the gine and some of its famous runs are still age of 6 he attended a country log school the talk of the old-timers on the Union and for five years gathered a little knowl- Pacific, "Sal" was a peculiar looking enedge of the three Hz, when he was forced gine, with a straight boiler, and its cylinders almost as big as the boiler. Many are For three years he did the best a boy could the tales of experiences with snow drifts do to help grow the crops and he then and Indians and drifting cattle which crustarted out to make his own way in the sen can tell when in a reminiscent mood. world. He soon secured employment in a At one time Soda was running in a blizhardwood sawmill as fireman and engineer, zard and became stuck at Lodge Pole and a position which required some skill and could get no further. George Dillard was to which he had to exert his best efforts, sent from Sidney to help him out. They reached Colton, when 101 struck seven yoke This engineer then had to do his own of oxen and killed all but one. He tells many tales of killing coyotes and rabbits

> "Bobby," asked the visitor, "how are "Aw, I gave it up," pouted Bobby, dis-"In what way ?"

"Gus," he said, with confidence, "I took Hall Caine on \$500 a Year. Shortly after Rosetti's death, writes Hall on Confucius and a book on India. His Calne in Appleton's, I took two rooms (I correspondence is tremendous, but he dicalled them "chambers") in the old, now rects it personally and enjoys doing it." voted myself to my work as a journalist,

which consisted chiefly of my work on the

While on a business trip to Amarillo,